Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for securing ~~the head of~~ a toothbrush in a ~~processing machine, in particular tufting machine,~~tufting machine, the toothbrush including a toothbrush head that has a plate-like bristle carrier produced from a rigid plastic, the toothbrush head including a retaining crosspiece produced from a rigid plastic, the bristle carrier and the retaining crosspiece defining a space therebetween, the device comprising:

a retaining part ~~with~~ having a retaining ~~flange, and having~~ flange and a supporting surface integrally formed on the retaining flange, the retaining flange being configured to engage ~~a toothbrush~~the toothbrush head in ~~a space~~the space between (1) ~~a plate-like~~ the bristle carrier of the toothbrush ~~head, the bristle carrier being produced from a rigid plastic, and~~head, and (2) ~~a retaining~~the retaining crosspiece of the toothbrush ~~head, the retaining crosspiece being produced from a rigid plastic and being spaced apart from the bristle carrier to form the space,~~head, the retaining part supporting the bristle carrier by way of the supporting surface.

2. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining part has a clamping surface that interacts with a peripheral lateral surface of the bristle carrier.

3. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the clamping surface, when viewed in cross section, is of a concave design to enclose the lateral surface.

4. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining flange, when viewed in cross section, tapers in a direction of a free end of the retaining flange and has a wall thickness of at least 1 mm.

5. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, on a side of the retaining flange which is directed away from the supporting surface, the retaining flange has a further supporting surface, which interacts with the retaining crosspiece.

6. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the supporting surface, the clamping surface and the further supporting surface are formed to mate directly with at least one of the bristle carrier and the retaining crosspiece.

7. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining part comprises two retaining parts which move relative to one another between a retaining position and a receiving position.

8. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein retaining flanges of the two retaining parts are of mirror-symmetrical design.

9. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein retaining flanges of the two retaining parts are spaced apart from one another in the retaining position.

10. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the clamping surface follows the supporting surface and runs transversely to the supporting surface.

11. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, the retaining part further comprising:

a clamping surface which interacts with a peripheral lateral surface of the bristle carrier, the retaining flange having, on a side which is directed away from the supporting surface, a further supporting surface which interacts with the retaining crosspiece,

wherein the supporting surface, the clamping surface and the further supporting surface are formed to mate with the bristle carrier and the retaining crosspiece, respectively.

12. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for securing ~~a head of~~ a toothbrush in a ~~processing machine, in particular tufting machine,~~ tufting machine, the method comprising:

employing a retaining part with a retaining flange, and a supporting surface integrally formed on the retaining flange, to engage a toothbrush head in a space between (1) a plate-like bristle carrier of the toothbrush head, the bristle carrier being produced from a rigid plastic, and (2) a retaining crosspiece of the toothbrush head, the retaining crosspiece being produced from a rigid plastic and being spaced apart from the bristle carrier to form the space, the retaining part supporting the bristle carrier by way of the supporting surface.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, further comprising

moving two retaining parts from a receiving position to a retaining position to engage the toothbrush head; and

moving the two retaining parts from the retaining position to the receiving position to release the toothbrush head.

14. (Withdrawn) A toothbrush processed with a processing machine comprising the device according to claim 1.

15. (Withdrawn) A toothbrush processed with the method according to claim 12.

16. (New) A toothbrush system comprising:

a toothbrush including a toothbrush head that has a plate-like bristle carrier produced from a rigid plastic, the toothbrush head including a retaining crosspiece produced from a rigid plastic, the bristle carrier and the retaining crosspiece defining a space therebetween; and

a tufting machine including a device for securing the toothbrush, the device including:

a retaining part having a retaining flange and a supporting surface integrally formed on the retaining flange, the retaining flange being configured to engage the toothbrush head in the space between (1) the bristle carrier of the toothbrush head, and (2) the retaining crosspiece of the toothbrush head, the retaining part supporting the bristle carrier by way of the supporting surface.